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survey of the respective merits of leading American colleges adds nothing to the author's reputation for profundity. The book is not lacking in good points, but the writer has many crudities of style to overcome before he will be classed with the best story-writers.

VII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TO COMPILE into a few volumes all that is good of many books is an undertaking which many able men may wisely shrink from, and yet this very task has been accomplished by Mr. Stedman and his co-laborers. The "Library of American Literature"* stands, and will stand, pre-eminent among its fellows. It is the one successful compilation of the age.

It is a pleasure to praise a good book when such a work is found among the many trashy volumes put forth to-day by the publishing houses; and it is not very often that the REVIEW is called upon to do so, but in this case it is both a pleasure and a privilege to taste of the literary feast which Mr. Stedman has invited us to. His name was, of course, a guarantee that what he provided for our mental delectation would be excellent; but in the "Library of American Literature" he has set forth a mental feast unparalleled in its completeness and its excellence. The ten volumes of which the series is composed are, and will be, invaluable to those who have not a remarkably well-equipped public library near at hand. Abounding in American incident, rich in literary merit, redundant in historic lore, permeated throughout with that spirit which has made these United States a nation—no books can be so wisely and safely placed in the hands of our youth as these. They amuse while they instruct. They teach while they entertain. They are *good, very good*.

Mr. Edmund Pendleton's story, "A Virginia Inheritance,"† is a readable, well written affair, but not entitled to rank above the average holiday novel. The scene is laid partly in New York City and partly in Virginia, and the leading characters are a city lawyer of good social standing, the members of an old Virginian family, a hot-headed youth from the same State, and sundry people moving in fashionable circles. By the terms of a will the Virginians are threatened with the loss of their old home, which passes to a city cousin, who engages the lawyer to conduct negotiations. The oldest daughter of the house is a charming girl, strong-minded, but ingenuous and captivating, and the lawyer finds himself face to face with a very complicated problem. The ways of sleepy, delightful old Virginia and of New York, in some of her social and commercial aspects, are faithfully delineated. The "old general" is a good study. The author evidently writes from careful observation.

Messrs. T. Y. Crowell & Co. reproduce in translation a series of the works of Victor Hugo, of which we have received copies of "Toilers of the Sea," "Notre Dame de Paris," "By Order of the King," "History of a Crime" and "Ninety-three." The translations seem to have been done with care, and although it is obviously impossible to reproduce the exact idioms and to convey the entire meaning of the author in any translation, yet as a whole and without stopping to discriminate between

* "A Library of American Literature," compiled and edited by Edmund Clarence Stedman, and Ellen Mackay Hutchinson. Charles L. Webster & Co.

† "A Virginia Inheritance." A novel. By Edmund Pendleton. D. Appleton & Co.

the merits of the several translations, the work may be pronounced excellent. Thousands who have never read a line of Victor Hugo's writings will thus be brought into communion with that impetuous and gifted man.

Mr. Henry James's novel, "The Reverberator,"* deals with certain phases of Parisian social life, as experienced by an American family, and also with some peculiarities of society journalism. It strikes us as rather dull and commonplace.

"The Elect Lady,"† by Dr. George MacDonald, is not entitled as a story to much remark. The character-sketching is good, but there is an absence of anything that appeals strongly to the imagination of curiosity, and the interest is sustained with difficulty. The scene is laid in Scotland and the people are all Scotch. The author's puritanism is reflected in the rather austere pietism of the leading personages. Such people as Andrew Ingram doubtless do exist and are subject to like passions and emotions as ordinary mortals, and though they live in a world of mysticism, into which few are privileged to enter, they are yet not without their admirable qualities, and in many things may be studied with advantage. Andrew Ingram is a man without a moral feeling, and with original ideas about religion, which bring him into a passive kind of antagonism with the hypocrisies and inconsistencies of conventional churchism. Such men sometimes win the deathless devotion of women of a peculiar temperament. The purpose of the writer seems to be to show how this may happen and how people of high moral ideals do their love-making.

The scene of the little story "Ninette"‡ is laid in Provence, and the story itself illustrates some of the manners and customs of the peasantry of that interesting region. Otherwise there is not much to be said about it. Ninette is a pretty type of a French farmer's daughter, born to early poverty and hardship, and persecuted by a virago of a mother-in-law and a middle-aged suitor, who is the villain of the plot. How she emerges from her troubles and how life runs along among these lowly people form together the backbone of the sketch.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

T. Y. Crowell & Co.

History of a Crime. Victor Hugo. Translated from the French by Huntington Smith. 2 vols.

By Order of the King. Victor Hugo. Translated from the French by Isabel Hapgood. 2 vols.

The Captain's Dog. A Story for Young and Old. Written in French by Louis Enault. Done into English by Huntington Smith. Illustrated.

A. Lovell & Co.

Inductive Language Lessons. Elementary Grammar and Composition, etc. Harris R. Greene, A.M.

Astronomy Note Book, for High Schools, Academies and Colleges. Marion L. Berneike, M.D.

* "The Reverberator." By Henry James. Macmillan & Co.

† "The Elect Lady." By George MacDonald. D. Appleton & Co.

‡ "Ninette." An Idyll of Provence. D. Appleton & Co.